Under the UN *Oil-for-Food* Programme, which expires in November 2003 Indian companies won contracts for suplying a variety of goods and plant and equipment valued at approx. $1.1 billion between 1996-2002.

Visit of Israeli Prime Minister

2642. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the issues proposed to be discussed with the Prime Minister of Israel during his ensuing visit in September, 2003?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) Israeli Prime Minister is scheduled to pay a State visit to India in September 2003. Although the agenda of the visit is yet to be confirmed, the two sides are expected to discuss the issues of bilateral, regional and international interest.

Indian Nationals stranded in Tripol

2643. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that recently 73 village youths from Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, who got stranded in Tripoli, the capital of Libya, were lured for jobs by M/s Glomat Overseas Associates;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to check it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) Yes.

(b) 73 Indian wokers recruited by M/s Glomat Overseas Associates, New Delhi, for a Libyan company, M/s Organisation of Naher At Hayah for Construction and Investments, were stranded in Libya for over three months. They were repatriated to India in July, 2003, on the intervention of the Indian Embassy in Tripoli.

(c)The Libyan company has been blacklisted by the Government of India for recruitment of Indian workers.